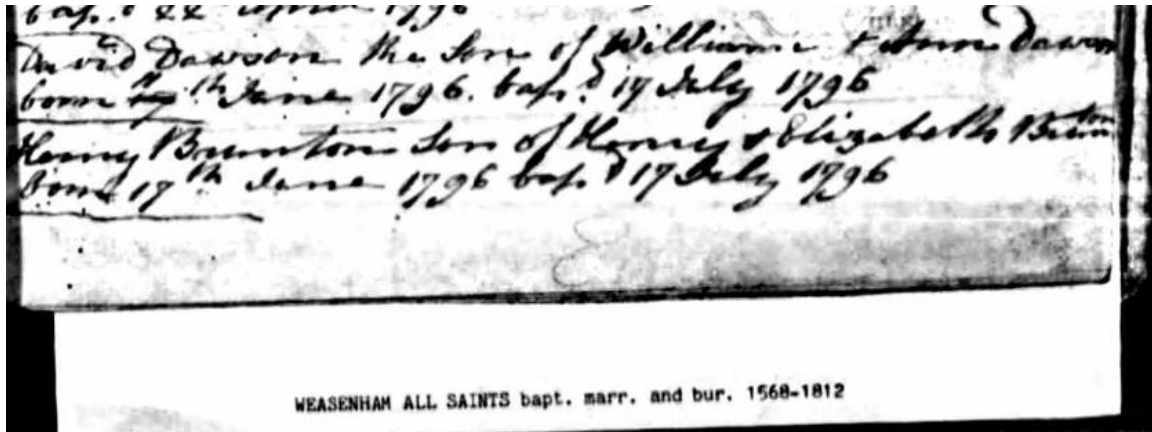


David DAWSON and Frances CASE

David was born in the small community of Weasenham All Saints in Norfolk County England to William Dawson and Ann Rose (both born locally).



He grew up here,



Weasenham All Saints Church, Norfolk, England

and married Frances Case (daughter of Richard Case and Elizabeth Tann) from the nearby parish of Beeston – Next – Mileham.

<u>Baptisms</u> 1790		Page 24.
<u>225.</u>	Charles son of Thomas and Phoebe Gooderson (late Phoebe Swingel) born August 26 th bapt ^d Aug ^t 21 st Registered August 21 st by me W. Barnwell Rec ^d	<u>Gooderson.</u>
<u>226.</u>	Frances daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Case (late Eliz th Tann) born September 2 nd bapt ^d Sep ^r 8 th Registered September 8 th by W. Barnwell Rec ^d	<u>Case.</u>



Beeston – Next – Mileham, Norfolk, England

Nothing is known of David's cause of death, or his place of burial. It is perhaps telling that none of his children named any of their sons David. It is possible, however, that David deserted the family. There is a David Dawson born England age 50 in the 1852 census of Ontario residing with the Baxter family, working as a labourer, and of the W. Methodist faith. The name David Dawson is rare in England, and David from Weasenham appears to be the only one in the parish baptismal records for that time frame. The age is close enough for a census record when the head of the household likely estimated David's age to a rounded off 50 – as seen in the document below. He is the only David Dawson in the census of Canada. This David Dawson was living in Bertie Township, Welland County, Ontario. The property is located on Concession 2 Lot 14 between Ft. Erie on the Niagara River and Ridgeway. He is also living with the same family in the 1861 census of Bertie Township, but his age is given as 52 (being a labourer underestimating age makes sense if you want to keep your job), and he is of the Church of England. So did David die in 1837, or did he desert his family then and move to the other end of the Niagara Peninsula? It is unlikely that we will ever know the real story.

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PERSONAL CENSUS—ENUMERATION DISTRICT, No. One Township

Names of Inmates.	Profession, Trade or Occupation.	Place of Birth.	Religion.	Residence if out of limits.	Age next birth day.	Sex.	
						Male.	Female.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1 Valentin Szwuygne	Farmer	Germany	C. of England		68	X	-
2 Barbara Szwuygne					56	"	X
3 Peter Szwuygne		C. of E.			17	X	"
4 George Szwuygne	Farmer	Germany			28	X	"
5 Margaret Szwuygne					25	"	X
6 Mary Szwuygne		Canada W.			2	"	X
7 E. Szwuygne		Bertie			1	"	X
8 Henry Baxter	Farmer	Bertie	W. Methodist		34	X	"
9 Abigail Baxter		"	"	Y	37	"	X
10 J. Baxter		"	"	Y	2	"	X
11 David Dawson	Sawyer	England			50	X	"
12 John Edsall	Farmer	Bertie	No book	Y	66	X	"
13 Catharine Edsall		"	"	Y	59	"	X
14 Peter Edsall		"	"	W	38	X	"
15 Eliza J. Edsall		"	"		35	"	X

What we do know, however, is that on 12 August 1838 Frances Case, widow (she did not use her married surname, which is unusual) of Hamilton was married John Willis, bachelor of the Grand River Tract at Christs Church Cathedral. Frances was 15 years older than John, and had 5 teen or pre-teen aged children. It appears that John moved to the Saltfleet – Grimsby area soon after the marriage since their two children were born in the Grimsby area - Mary Ann born 1841 and Catharine born 1843 (baptized at the Grimsby Anglican Church). The extended family, including 3 of the Dawson sons of

Frances, moved to locations along the Plank Road (Highway 6, Upper James Street) in Glanford Township toward the Seneca Township (Haldimand County) line.

By the 1861 census John and Francis and their unmarried daughter were residing along the Plank Road, Lot 3, on a 50 acre parcel of land.



John's property can be seen on the above map of Seneca Township (1879). However it appears that Frances died in 1861. The property is close to White Church Cemetery, where son Francis Dawson and his two wives are buried, and likely Frances is buried here too.

Dr. David K. Faux
Cypress, California; Caledonia, Ontario
2 July 2017